

HOMESCHOOLING – THE NEW DRAFT REGULATION IS VERY MISGUIDED

Montréal, 8 May 2019 – AQED understands that the government is committed providing a quality education for all children in Quebec. AQED believes that the best way to achieve this goal is to provide a personalized education for each child. The draft regulation amending the initial regulation governing homeschooling in Quebec therefore seems very ill-advised .

In its brief submitted to the Minister of Education today, the Association québécoise pour l'éducation à domicile (AQED) welcomes the fact that this draft regulation specifies that school boards must take the necessary measures to allow the recognition of units for which there are no ministerial examinations. However, the facts do not justify the need to amend the current regulation to increase control over homeschooling.

This project is skipping many steps and its objective is not clear. It does not concretely address the problem of “illegal schools,” and the possible use of the Youth Protection Services/Batshaw to resolve educational conflicts is not desirable. In addition, several scientific studies on the impact of interventions on home education suggest that these regulations will not increase educational success rates.

The imposition of exams is contrary to best practices in education and the imposition of the Progression of Learning of the Québec Education Program is not the only valid way to provide a quality education, nor the only way to ensure that a child receives an adequate education. Moreover, the Progression of Learning is often not appropriate for children with special challenges. The imposition of examinations and of the Progression of Learning also runs counter to certain moral convictions. It should also be noted that families do not have the necessary state support to successfully comply with this regulation. It is therefore very likely that it will lead to an increased number of conflicts, cases at Youth Protection Services / Batshaw, litigation, and educational failures. AQED recommends:

1. Reinstate the Table de concertation and begin a consultation process with stakeholders to clearly identify the desired objectives for the Québec homeschooling program , study the results of this transition year, objectively document any gaps, and identify different ways to address them.
2. Delay the implementation of this proposed regulation at least until the government develops resources comparable to those in Alberta or France to support homeschooling families in following the PFÉQ: online courses, distance courses and/or the creation and distribution to families of resources (books and educational resources) that cover 100% of the Québec program.



3. Maintain choice of evaluation type, even if it means increasing the evaluation criteria for the options already available. Do not add any obligation to undergo a specific type of evaluation.
4. Do not impose 100% of the content of each subject, but rather identify which elements of the PFÉQ are essential (e.g., competencies).

The brief is available (in French) at the following location: <http://bit.ly/MemoireAQED>

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AQED is a non-profit, secular organization that brings together more than 900 families who educate more than 3,500 children in Québec. It provides information and support to Québec parents who choose to homeschool. It represents its members before the Ministère de l'Éducation et de l'Enseignement supérieur, school boards, and other organizations related to youth and education. It supports and defends the rights of parents to educate their children according to the pedagogical method they prefer, while protecting the child's right to a healthy and balanced education.